

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following paragraph above the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION":

--CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/600,144, filed June 19, 2003, entitled "Real-time, Multi-Point, Multi-Speed, Multi-Stream Scalable Computer Network Communications System," which is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/523,315, filed March 10, 2000, entitled "Real-time, Multi-Point, Multi-Speed, Multi-Stream Scalable Computer Network Communications System," which is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/823,744, filed March 25, 1997, entitled "Real-time, Multi-Point, Multi-Speed, Multi-Stream Scalable Computer Network Communications System," which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/014,242, filed March 26, 1996, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference.--